Northwood Recreation Commission

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Northwood School Library

Present: Matt Frye, David Ruth, Wade Sauls, Selectboard Member Beth Boudreau

Staff: Recreation Director Scott Blewitt

Not Present (excused): Janice Coffill and Ashley Martin

Meeting opened at 6:00 by Mr. Frye

Mr. Frye opened a public comment session. No members of the public were present and no members wished to speak as members of the public.

November 1, 2022 and December 6, 2022 meeting minutes

Mr. Ruth motioned to approve both sets of minutes as written. Ms Boudreau seconded.

Minutes approved with a vote of 4-0

Team setting and playing time policy second reading

The policy had not been updated since the board made recommendations to language protecting generally equal playing time for rec sport athletes. Mr. Frye tabled discussion of this policy to the March meeting to allow for those amendments to be made.

Conduct policy first reading

Mr. Frye reported having made copies of the proposed policy, but left them on the printer. Due to lack of printed copies to review, discussion of this policy was tabled to the march meeting as well.

Review of standing events

The committee, in conjunction with the Rec Director, compiled a list of programs that have historically been offered through the recreation department or have been planned for the upcoming year. Mr. Frye reminded the committee that this list is not comprehensive of all events and programs that may be offered in the future.

Jan – Basketball, Icy Inferno

Feb – Gunstock, fishing derby, basketball, groundhog day contest

March – Gunstock,

April – Egg Hunts, sports equipment swap

May – Spring Soccer, Food Truck Festival, Craft Fair, Beaches Open, Archery, Fishing Derby

June – June Jam, Town Yard Sale, Archery

July – Archery, Derti, Soccer Camp, Multisport Camp, 250th, Bean Hole Bash, Fort Building, puppet show

August – Soccer,

September – Soccer,

October – Close Beaches, Trunk Or Treat, Spooky Walk, Vendor Fair, Pumpkin Carving, pumpkin contest

November – mac and chili cookoff,

December – Tree Lighting, basketball, Santa parade, letters to Santa

Director Updates

Mr. Blewitt reported that basketball had gone well, and will be wrapping up in the coming weeks. Spring Soccer registration will open sometime during the week of February 13 and is scheduled to begin at the end of April or early May. Mr. Blewitt reported having received a new platinum sponsorship for the Food Truck Festival and reports a great deal of excitement around that program as well as the June Jam event. Live music has been booked for both events.

Mr. Blewitt reported having had productive meetings with both Black Bear Youth Lacrosse as well as a local adult softball program to discuss facility use. The lacrosse program will be communicating directly with the property owners at Bow Lake Field as the town is not renewing the mowing contract for that facility. In exchange for use of the lower sports fields at the Rte 4 complex, Black Bear has offered to clean up the downed brush left behind by the roadside mowers who cut down many small trees and brush along the treeline and in the drainage areas.

Trophies for the ice fishing derby have been ordered. Mr. Blewitt will be in contact with the Highway Department Foreman to discuss ice thickness and safety in order to make a decision about whether or not to run the program.

Committee Member Updates

Mr Sauls reported a desire to extend the rec basketball program through March. He reported that several practices were missed due to weather and scheduling conflicts. In order to more fully develop player skills, he is suggesting an afterschool program to be offered twice weekly for the third/fourth as well as the fifth/sixth teams. The program will be co-ed and will utilize either grade students to help with instruction. The program will be skills and drills followed by a scrimmage. Mr Sauls stated that with the committee’s approval he will reach out to the League Coordinator as well as the Recreation Director for their approval, and a facility use request will be generated by the recreation department to request use of the school gym.

Mr. Ruth made a motion to support Mr Sauls’s program. Seconded by Ms. Boudreau.

Motion passed 4-0.

Role of Committee

Mr. Frye shared the language found in the article establishing the recreation commission at the 1995 town meeting. The article references RSA 35-B which was also read. Mr. Frye stated that the language found in the RSA allows for the Board of Selectmen to distribute powers and duties between the recreation commission, other political subdivisions, and town staff. Having no record of such separation of duties and powers, Mr. Sauls contended that the rec commission has all powers of the BOS as it pertains to public recreation and parks. Mr. Frye suggested that we petition the BOS for clarification of the commission’s role and responsibilities. Mr. Ruth requested that the request include information relating to oversight of expenditures out of the recreation revolving fund. The committee provided consensus to make such a request. No vote was taken.

Mr. Sauls made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41. Mr. Ruth seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Feb 8, 2023

Matthew Frye

Chair